

ROFRANO ELUDES POLICE, WHO SEEK HIM ON MURDER CHARGE

General Alarm Out for Politician Indicted in Gaimari Killing.

HOME BROKEN INTO; PLACE FOUND EMPTY

Michael Rofrano, lawyer at 198 Broadway and avowed political enemy of Thomas F. Foley, Tammany leader of the Second Assembly district, was indicted yesterday for murder in the first degree. A general alarm was sent out in the afternoon, but the police had failed to find him at midnight.

That Rofrano was going to be accused of having inspired the killing of Michael Gaimari, a Foley election district captain, was generally known, and it is believed in police circles that Rofrano has gone into hiding until he gets ready to surrender himself.

Only three witnesses appeared before the Grand Jury against Rofrano. By far the most important was Frank Fenimore, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree on Monday and then went to District Attorney Perkins and made a confession that gave the prosecutor the name of the man supposed to have supplied the money for killing Gaimari.

Three men were held for the Gaimari killing. One was Gaetano Montomano, the actual slayer, now in the death house at Sing Sing. The evidence showed that he had been promised \$300 for the job by Rocco Carnivale, who is serving from twenty years to life for his participation in the crime.

Was the Money Handler. Carnivale had been the personal representative of Rofrano in the scheme, according to information in the hands of the District Attorney, and handled considerable money that came, so he boasted, from Rofrano.

That Rofrano did not present himself in general sessions after the indictment had been filed with Judge Malone yesterday was a surprise to many persons who knew the man who broke away from Tom Foley and organized the Home Rule Democratic Club to oust Foley and his followers from power.

At the office of Emory R. Buckner, Rofrano's counsel, it was said that Elmer Root, Jr., would look after the Rofrano case until the return of Mr. Buckner, now in the Portchester Hospital recovering from an appendicitis operation. Mr. Root said that a man representing himself as a brother of Rofrano had called up yesterday morning and announced that his brother would surrender during the day. Mr. Root did not know whether Michael Rofrano was in or out of town. Certain it is that he has eluded for at least two days Detectives Wood and Lesup, who were sent to shadow him Monday morning.

At one time the detectives reported that they had seen their man in the Municipal Building, where he had given them the slip. It developed yesterday that the man they had been following was a brother of the hunted man.

Rofrano Home Searched. After the Grand Jury had reported in court and the warrant had been issued, the two detectives were sent to Rofrano's home at 11 Oliver street. There admittance was denied them and they went to the roof and searched through a skylight. A search of the house did not produce the missing man.

Early in the afternoon Wood reported to Assistant District Attorney Brothers that he had been unsuccessful in finding Rofrano and it was then that the general police alarm was sent out to pick him up on sight.

When Fenimore began to tell his story to the District Attorney it became apparent that he was going to involve several more persons. In consequence many witnesses who had appeared for the defense at the Montomano and Carnivale trials were summoned. It was the belief all along that perjury had been freely committed at the trials and Fenimore supplied the missing links.

The Grand Jury will be asked today to indict Joseph Brondini, a Brooklyn saloon keeper, for supplying the money to Rofrano for committing perjury at the Montomano trial.

Louis De Mar, a clerk employed by Rofrano, who was an oil importer at 11 Broadway, made a full confession of his connection with the false evidence at the trial. He admitted that Brondini had induced him and Rofrano to school themselves in telling a story that would help Montomano. They were taken around the district and Madison streets where Gaimari was killed on the morning of March 8 last. When he went on the witness stand he swore that Montomano was not the man who had killed Gaimari. He described the murderer as a man larger and stouter than the defendant and said he wore a derby hat and a dark overcoat. All of the prosecution's witnesses swore the defendant did the shooting and that he wore a cap and a gray coat, which he discarded in a saloon after he had fired five bullets into his victim.

Rofrano and Brondini are under \$25,000 bail each. Brondini, it is alleged, took the contract to supply the false evidence at the trial.

How the Feud Started. The political differences between Foley and Rofrano date back about four years, when Rofrano demanded to be sent to Congress in the place of Davis, who has been the incumbent for several years.

On that occasion Rofrano told Foley that Rofrano could have the money, as all he wanted was the honor to be the Italian to be sent to Congress. Foley said yesterday that he then asked Rofrano if he took himself seriously, to Foley's report, he said, "You are the only one that does."

From that time on differences were frequent, and after Clement J. Driscoll, a brother of Eugene Driscoll, associate of Rofrano, was made a Deputy Police Commissioner there was an open break.

Then Rofrano with the Driscolls broke away and organized the rival club. The first thing they did was to put the Foleyites out of their then clubhouse at 15 Madison street. The Foley club is now housed at 33 Madison street, a block away.

When Rofrano opened his new club he made a bid for the young Italians who belonged to the Downtown Tammany Club to join his Home Rule Democratic Club. For a time his membership stood up pretty well. Then the young men seeing nothing in sight went back to Foley.

Mike Gaimari was one of the young Italians who refused to secede and he was backed up by James Minott, a cousin of Rofrano. Minott was shot and killed on the night of January 1 last by Tony and Joe La Salle, both of whom are now serving from twenty years to life imprisonment. Both turned State's evidence and testified at the Montomano and Carnivale trials.

It was Joe La Salle who swore that Carnivale told him the Rofrano men were supplying the money to have Gaimari



Thomas J. Foley.



Daniel J. Riordan.



Michael A. Rofrano.

POLICE ALARM FOR ROFRANO

Acting Police Commissioner Leon J. Godley has sent out a general alarm for Michael A. Rofrano, describing him as 5 feet 6½ inches tall, of stocky build, dark complexion; looks like an Italian. He wears his hat down over his eyes. He walks erect and fast.

Killed. Fenimore now corroborates that story, only he says that he got his information from Rofrano himself, with whom he had many talks. He admits that he let himself be drawn into the street cleaning resigning under pressure after the Montomano trial.

DIVORCED WOMAN SUES CHICAGO ART PATRON

Cecil Davis of Brooklyn Wants \$150,000 From the Elderly Robert M. Eastman.

Supreme Court Justice Finch yesterday signed an order permitting Cecil M. Virginia Davis of Brooklyn to serve a summons on Robert M. Eastman at 330 Hamlin avenue, Chicago, by mail and publication. She is suing for \$150,000 damages.

According to her complaint, filed through Edgar J. Treacy, she was living in this city in May, 1914, and working in a photograph studio for \$50 a week. Eastman was an elderly man, she says, who "manifested strong interest in plaintiff's work after his introduction by a friend."

Eastman told her, she says, "he was a very rich man who lived in Chicago." He represented himself to be a patron of art and a philanthropist and professed only disinterested friendship for the plaintiff. As he was an elderly man and plaintiff only 23 years of age, she says, she believed his professions were true and sincere.

Mrs. Davis explained that Eastman urged her to go to Chicago at his expense, offering to open a studio for her. On May 4, 1914, she went to Chicago and was met at the station by Eastman. She says he accompanied her to the Congress Hotel, where she was registered and was assigned to a suite. Against her objections, she adds, he gained entrance to her rooms on a pretext, ordered cocktails, and then locked himself in her rooms after the waiter had departed.

She declares her husband learned of Eastman's visit to her rooms and said her for divorce in Kansas City. He received a decree. She returned to New York and on failing to get satisfaction from Eastman started suit against him.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—Robert M. Eastman, who has been sued for \$150,000 damages by Cecil Davis has been identified since 1893 with the W. F. Hall Printing Company, becoming president and treasurer in 1901. He is 46 years old, married and has two children. There was no response to door bell rings at his home in Hamlin avenue to-night. Neighbors said the family was out. He is a member of the Chicago Athletic Club and associates at the club to-night said he was out of the city, presumably in New York.

TIRE EXPLODES; BREAKS JAW.

Chauffeur Is Hurled Twelve Feet Against a Pole.

HIGHLAND FALLS, N. Y., Sept. 14.—Frederick Lawrence of Central Valley is laid up with a compound fracture of the jaw, having been blown twelve feet by the explosion of an automobile tire to-day.

He was leaning over one of the wheels pulling off a shoe. The tire burst, hurling him backward against a pole. He was taken to St. Luke's Hospital by his father, Charles Lawrence, and his jaw was set in a cast.

THREATEN WIDER ELIZABETH STRIKE

Socialists Say They Will Call Out All Unskilled Labor in City.

FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE

ELIZABETH, N. J., Sept. 14.—Socialist leaders who are organizing the striking employees of the Samuel L. Moore & Sons Company, a subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the A. & F. Brown Company, the Linden Tanning Company and the Moore Bros. Company, said to-night at a meeting in Lutwin's Hall that a general strike of unskilled labor would be called to-morrow throughout the city. Laborers of the American Enamelware Manufacturing Company at 140 Broadway joined the strike movement this afternoon, when about 100 walked out of the plant after a refusal by the company to increase their pay from \$1.85 to \$2 a day.

The first disorder occurred this afternoon about 400 strikers and their friends gathered near the Linden Tanning. When several patrolmen ordered them to move on there were hoots and yells. The arrival of police reserves, however, brought about the speedy dispersal of the crowd.

The employees of the S. L. Moore & Sons Company and the Moore Bros. Company have been organized as members of the American Federation of Labor. The new organization will be known as the "moulders' men, helpers and crane workers' union."

That every moulder in Elizabeth will be on strike unless the demands of the new union are granted by to-morrow night seems to be the general opinion in local labor circles.

Prominent among the strike agitators is Jeremiah Haly of Bayonne, Rutgers, who is working here to bring about a sympathetic strike at the big Singer manufacturing plant, where he was employed previously to the Standard Oil strike in Bayonne.

8,000 COPPER MINERS STRIKE.

Plants of Three Companies in Arizona Tied Up.

EL PASO, Tex., Sept. 14.—Eight thousand men are involved at the strike at Clifton, Arizona, and Metcalf, Arizona, against the Detroit Copper Company, the Arizona Copper Company and the Shannon Copper Company. The electricians, machinists and boilermakers joined the miners to-day.

The strike results from the organization of branches of the Western Federation of Miners in the camps and the refusal of operators to deal with the union representatives. The strike has closed mines and smelters of the three companies.

15 WATCHMEN TAKE A NAP.

At Least, That's What P. S. C. Hears From Long Island.

Fifteen watchmen at crossings of the Long Island Railroad were found asleep on the night of September 2 and some of the gates were up, according to the testimony of Inspector Hutchinson of the Public Service Commission given at a commission hearing yesterday.

Hutchinson was asked: "What protection would a pedestrian or automobile have against a passing train?" The witness replied: "None, so far as the flagman was concerned."

For the railroad company, C. L. Addison demanded the dismissal of the watchmen. He said that under the company's inspection system it was impossible for a watchman to go to sleep except when trains were running. The commission's lawyer declined to give the names and Commissioner Cram upheld him.

Hutchinson said he knew of one watchman who had no day off in nine years. He said the men have to work an eighteen hour day when the monthly day to night shift is made, and that the emergency hours are sometimes twenty-four a day.

SINGLE TAXERS NEAR BLOWS.

Raise in Rents Creates Discontent in Arden Colony.

WILMINGTON, Del., Sept. 14.—An increase of 11 per cent. in rentals at Arden, N. J., has shattered the ideal of the pioneer single tax colony. At a monthly meeting of the colonists to-day to receive a report of the Board of Assessors several of the residents nearly came to blows. A "leaseholders' protective association" was formed to combat the "constant and recurring advance in rent. None of the colonists own land at Arden, the tract being leased by 400 leaseholders in common. A number of leaseholders protested against the constant advance, it being declared they were taxed four times as much as neighbors who are not single taxers.

Protest to State Comptroller. Corporation Counsel Frank Polk—at least his name is signed to the letter, although he is supposed to have begun his work as counselor to the State Department—protested to State Comptroller Travis yesterday against the proposal to add \$16,608 to the city's share of the direct State tax by taxing bank shares.

Mr. Polk agrees with Comptroller Prendergast, holding that only real and personal property figure in the valuation under the tax law. Bank shares are taxable under section 24 of the general tax law, irrespective of the direct State tax. In his letter Mr. Polk cites several court decisions to support his contention that the State Comptroller and Attorney-General Woodbury are far

KILLED BY RAPID GROWTH.

Six Feet Tall, 16-Year-Old Youth Succumbs to Short Illness.

EAST ORANGE, N. J., Sept. 14.—Too rapid growth of bone and muscle, which gave him a height of six feet, although he was only 16 years old, caused the death yesterday at his home, 35 Elliott place, of Milton Warren Chalmers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Chalmers.

The boy grew several inches within a few months and was stricken ill a fortnight ago. He was unusually tall for several years. He was a pupil at the East Orange High School.

You will discover an unusually palatable flavor in that real whole wheat loaf

WARD'S Wheat Bread

BEHIND \$2,291 IN ALIMONY.

Wife of Alvin W. Cameron Takes Steps to Collect.

Mrs. Marguerite Stone Cameron, wife of Alvin W. Cameron, got from Supreme Court Justice Donnelly yesterday an order calling upon Cameron to show cause why he should not be punished for failing to pay Mrs. Cameron \$2,291 alimony.

Cameron is the son of A. J. Cameron, a Philadelphia woolen manufacturer. He married the daughter of Frank W. Stone of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1908 and separated from her in December, 1912. She alleged he had neglected her. He agreed to pay her \$2,500 a year alimony, but has failed to do so since last November.

Letters filed with the petition show that he is now living in his old home in Ridgewood, N. J., on a small allowance made by his father.

MAYOR WANTS LAW TO END PERSONAL TAX DODGING

Thinks Present Acts Bad—Sees Need of Change—Feels That Realty Owners Are Too Heavily Burdened—Plans to Collect From Others.

In order to give the public a clear conception of what the city administration is trying to do in reaching out for increased tax revenue from personal property Mayor Mitchell said last night:

"Tax experts generally and all those who have studied the personal property tax law as in force in this city agree that it is bad and unscientific. It is often confiscatory. It is easily evaded except by estates and those least able to pay. Personal assessments are a hit and miss affair, arrived at by guess work and without scientific basis, whereas they should be made through self-assessment."

"The law, however, is in the books, and it is the duty of the city administration to enforce it until it is replaced by a more just law and one capable of scientific and equitable enforcement."

Says Some Avoid Burden. "In the meantime we all recognize that many individuals and business houses are paying only a small proportion of what they should pay for their contribution to the cost of government. In view of the absolute necessity for relief to real estate, and in view also of the crushing burden of the direct State tax, \$13,000,000 of which the city must carry in its budget, the Tax Board is looking for a way to reach the persons, under the law as it exists, who have not hitherto borne their proper share of the burden of government."

What additional revenue if any will be obtained remains to be seen. "In any event we are doing only what is our duty under the law, and it is hoped that our efforts will result in some measure of relief. Even if we look upon the matter as one in which we had discretion we would be forced by the reduction in the direct State tax this year to take unusual steps to procure additional revenue in order in some degree to lessen the fearful burden under which the city is compelled to stagger."

Earlier in the day when the Mayor was asked if the proposed increase in personal assessment was \$4,000,000, as rumored in the Municipal Building on Monday, he smiled and replied: "Those figures are too nebulous for me."

He also said that he would not guess at what next year's tax rate would be. Some time ago, when the \$18,000,000 State tax was voted, it was estimated that the rate, which just now gives for each \$500,000 added to the city budget, would approximate 2.15 next year, based on the \$13,555,413 that must go into the budget as the city's share of the direct tax. That still stands as a fair guess, but, as the Mayor pointed out, the rate will be known only when the budget for the next year is adopted. It is obvious, however, that the general fund will be several million dollars less than last year, which will increase the tax rate.

Will Prepare for Tax Dodgers. The Mayor was asked how the Tax Department proposed to compel tax dodgers to pay, efforts in that direction having been futile in the past. He replied that a great effort would be made to get evidence of what a man really owns with which to confront him when he attempts to take oath to poverty. It was repeated yesterday that no general prosecution for perjury in the case of tax dodgers was contemplated by the members of the Tax Board. As to whether the perjury law applies there is a difference of opinion. But in the only test case in which the law has been applied it was recalled yesterday, the city lost its case.

The vision of the personally assessment board this year to \$4,000,000 seems to have been a product of a certain Tax Commissioner's enthusiasm. No information was to be had yesterday which even hinted at such a high figure. On the contrary, a majority of the board believe they will be lucky if they increase the final levy by \$16,000,000 over this year's total, which would give a tax increase of only \$2,000,000 instead of the \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000, exploited by some of the guesses on Monday. The Tax Board has decided on certain measures—not yet made public—whereby it hopes to raise all of the additional revenue it needs. But the privately expressed belief is that the sum to be realized will be comparatively small.

Among the items of personal property on the taxable list are books, pictures and other art objects, wares and merchandise, machinery, cash on hand and in banks other than savings banks, mortgages on real estate, bonds, yachts and vessels not in the foreign trade and bills receivable. There is also a long list of "deductions" of which many persons take advantage in swearing off taxes. All debts and bills payable are on this list.

Peary Offers Aero Station.

Portland, Me., Sept. 14.—A proposal to establish an aerial coast patrol base on Peary Island, Casco Bay, which belongs to Robert E. Peary, has been made by Henry A. Wise Wood, vice-president of the Aero Club of America, to Alan Hawley, head of the club. Mr. Peary has tendered the use of the island for that purpose.

In his report Mr. Wood says: "With a minimum of effort and time aerial observers working from Peary Island may command the off shore waters of Casco Bay, which lie behind the Portland defenses. The importance of a constant aerial surveillance of Casco Bay in the event of hostilities cannot be overestimated, as the bay provides perhaps one of the best hiding places for submarine vessels to be found anywhere along the New England coast."

More Salaries Clipped.

Pruners of City Pay Roll Want Two Jobs Eliminated.

More city employees' salaries were recommended for reduction and two jobs were slated for elimination altogether by the budget sub-committee yesterday in the Municipal Building.

The committee agreed that the Board

of Assessors did not need a \$5,000 secretary. So they recommended that the man who holds this job, St. George Tucker, be dispensed with after January 1, 1916. The Board of Public Administration's agent for New York county was also found useless "for the time being anyway" by Commissioner of Accounts, Walcott. It developed that Edgerton Kelly, who held this position, has been ill for a year and a half and the work has been done by others in the out in their salaries. He will be able to continue.

Nine of thirteen employees in the Bronx County Court offices will be reduced if the committee's recommendations are accepted by the Board of Estimate. Among them are Samuel W. Phillips, secretary to County Judge, from \$3,000 to \$2,150; Edward J. O'Brien, special deputy clerk, from \$2,500 to \$1,800; Louis F. Haffen, Jr., son of the ex-Borough President, as assistant special deputy clerk, from \$2,500 to \$1,800; and William W. Lyons, same title, from \$2,500 to \$1,800.

The hearing will be resumed at 9:30 A. M. to-day.

County Clerk William F. Schneider addressed a meeting of the employees in his office yesterday and counseled them to organize in opposition to the proposed cuts in their salaries. He said he would appear before the Board of Estimate and speak in their behalf. It is possible that George C. Austin of the law firm of Austin, McLaughlin & Merritt, who sent a letter of sympathy to the County Clerk yesterday, may be engaged to oppose the proposed salary reduction.

A committee headed by Eugene B. Schwartz, certificate clerk, was selected to form a plan for union action.

FEARY OFFERS AERO STATION.

Tenders the Use of Peary Island in Casco Bay.

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Redfield is Upheld in Eastland Inquiry.

Confers With Wilson—Says Resignation Reports Are Groundless.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—A despatch to the Chicago Tribune from Washington to-night says:

"William Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, will not lose his position as a result of the difficulties he got into in Chicago during his investigation of the Eastland catastrophe."

"After a call at the White House, where he spent more than an hour with the President this morning, Mr. Redfield characterized the reports that he would be asked to resign or that he would resign as 'false'."

"From authoritative sources it was learned after Mr. Redfield's visit at the White House that the President, instead of censuring him, praised him because of the methods he employed in conducting his investigation. The President assured Mr. Redfield that he had absolute confidence in him and that he was convinced he had done everything in his power at Chicago to discover the cause of the accident and to place the blame where it properly belonged."

"It also became known to-day that President Wilson wrote Secretary Redfield a letter at the height of the excitement in Chicago over the manner in which he was conducting his investigation, assuring him that he had the support of the Administration in his course."

Yonkers Woman Revives Complaint Popular in Salem in 1692.

YONKERS, N. Y., Sept. 14.—Judge Beall in the Court of Special Sessions to-day rubbed his eyes and wondered whether he was back in Salem in the year 1692. Mrs. Harold Cole of 22 Victor street, complained that her mother, Mrs. Annie Bugle, was practicing witchery.

"She doesn't like my husband," said the complainant "and is trying to make trouble for him. She lives in St. Joseph's Hospital, and she's learned all about drugs, and now she is a regular wizard at casting spells on people."

"She put powder on my pillow. It affected me queerly and I had trouble shaking off the feeling that my love for my husband was waning."

The Judge discharged the defendant, after reprimanding her.

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